

THE VALUABLE WORK OF THOMAS MAXWELL POTTS

by Janice G. Cloud, Cloud Family Historian and Editor

In 1910-11, Thomas Maxwell Potts produced a typescript compilation of *Genealogical Notes of the CLOUD FAMILY founded by William Cloud who came to Pennsylvania in 1682 and died in 1702*. This work expanded on a brief "Chapter XXIII, The Cloud Family," that Potts had included in an earlier publication, titled: *Our Family Ancestors*.

The eminent Quaker genealogist, Gilbert Cope of West Chester, Pennsylvania, also shared records on the Cloud Family in his possession with Potts for this compilation. Cope's in-depth knowledge of both the people and the community in Pennsylvania and Delaware, lends considerable scholarship to the work.

Potts states that his compilation is not comprehensive, but it is, indeed, substantial and I feel, in general, the most accurate work produced on Cloud genealogy. (One noted error is his listing of the wife of Joseph Cloud [#126] as Charity Tally, when she is actually the wife of Joseph Cloud [#53], in the numbering system used by Potts.) The primary focus is on Cloud families of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The only two copies known to me of this rare and valuable work are at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Delaware in Wilmington. The copy from which these pages have been scanned is from the latter institution. The copy in Philadelphia contains several additional pieces of correspondence between Potts and Cloud descendants bound into the typescript.

This extremely valuable work deserves wider exposure and it is fitting that the Cloud Family Association honor Thomas Maxwell Potts with this reproduction of his major contribution to Cloud Family research.